

Ways to Work with Your Neighbors

Development decisions are best made at the local level, but regional cooperation often strengthens the hand of local boards and helps insure that potentially negative consequences from larger scale projects do not spill across municipal or county borders. Involving your neighbors and different levels of government early on may prevent conflicts or possible jurisdictional disputes and will build the reciprocal relationships that help in future projects. Greenway Compact members can also undertake regional planning initiatives or intermunicipal agreements when there are issues of common concern.

Types of projects that are likely to raise intermunicipal or regional concerns:

- large-scale outlets (such as regional shopping malls, mega-stores);
- uses that may affect water or air quality (power plants, industrial complexes, landfills);
- structures with wide visual impacts (power lines, communication towers); or
- substantial traffic generators (large mining operations, truck terminals, major transportation projects).



Looking beyond Municipal or County Boundaries

Mechanisms to enhance communication among partners in the Greenway Compact Program:

- Hold early intermunicipal public forums to gather information and comments from a wider audience before project plans are solidified;
- Resolve jurisdictional disputes up front and help coordinate the permitting process through joint meetings with local, county, state, and federal representatives;
- Designate neighboring communities as interested agencies (or in certain cases involved agencies) during the environmental review process to insure open communication lines;
- Combine board meetings for projects with multiple approvals or on municipal borders so that applicants do not have to make separate presentations and then reconcile conflicting requests;
- Ask groups such as the Harlem Valley Partnership, the Northern Dutchess Alliance, and the Southern Dutchess or Poughkeepsie Area Chambers of Commerce for input on intermunicipal issues; and
- Take advantage of the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the River Navigator from the American Heritage Rivers program to help make local connections with state and federal agencies.